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Central Intelligence Bulletin

State Department review completed

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24 October 1973

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Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A025500010002-6

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A025500010002-6

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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL: After intensified fighting yesterday along the southern sector of the west bank, Israel and Egypt agreed to a new cease-fire to take effect at 0100 EDT. Damascus also announced its acceptance of the UN cease-fire resolution late last night. Syria conditioned its acceptance, as Egypt had, upon complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory.

The UN Security Council resolution approved last night was again cosponsored by the US and the Soviet Union; the resolution

--reaffirms Monday's call for a cease-fire and urges all parties to return to the positions they occupied at the time the truce became effective;

--requests that the Secretary General dispatch UN observers to supervise the cease-fire along the Egyptian front.

This first effort of the Council to enforce its much-violated cease-fire should bring UN observers quickly into place. It avoids, however, the difficult problem of where the cease-fire line should be drawn. Last night's stormy session also failed to address the questions of how to initiate peace negotiations and implement the ambiguous Resolution 242.

Yesterday's heavy fighting on the Egyptian front occurred near Suez, where the Israelis continued to push south despite stiff Egyptian resistance.

If Suez were to fall, Egyptian forces in the southern sector of the Sinai would be cut off from their supply lines; the Israelis would also be able to block the return of Egyptian forces from the east bank.

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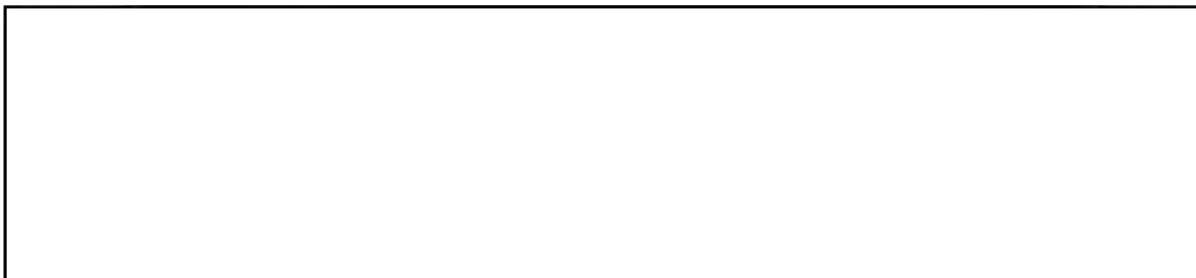
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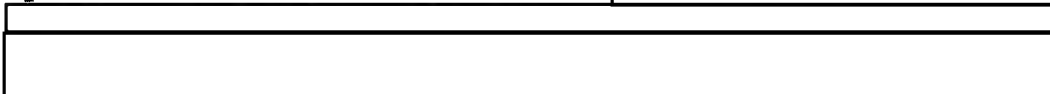


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Fighting on the Syrian front yesterday was limited to air strikes and artillery duels in the Mount Hermon area, where Syrian artillery was reported shelling positions lost to the Israelis. Damascus claimed 11 Israeli aircraft were shot down, while Tel Aviv said it destroyed ten Syrian fighters. Early this morning, the Israelis were shelling the ports of Latakia and Baniyas.

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Five additional Soviet merchant ships possibly carrying arms transited the Bosphorus for Middle East ports on 22 October. These ships are carrying a total of nearly 12,000 tons of cargo.

In a speech to the Knesset yesterday, Prime Minister Meir emphasized that Israel had accepted the cease-fire from a position of strength. She noted that Israeli forces on the west bank of the Suez Canal constitute a powerful base from which to launch future operations if they become necessary.

Meir stressed, as Tel Aviv always has, the necessity for direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs, adding that there would be "no Israeli withdrawal until a binding peace settlement" is achieved. She said that the US had no plan to impose a settlement. Implying that she was drawing on conversations with Secretary Kissinger, she interpreted the US position to be that talks between

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the parties to the conflict must accompany the cease-fire. The cease-fire, she said, might therefore become a "turning point in the region's history--one that could lead from bloodshed to peace."

Cairo reacted to the Meir speech by charging that it proved Israel's responsibility for the cease-fire violations. Egypt asserted that the US, as a sponsor to the cease-fire resolution, has a special responsibility for curbing Israel. The Egyptian statement cited Meir's references to US support as evidence that US military resupply was the main cause of Israeli aggressiveness.

Moscow issued a government statement yesterday placing blame on Tel Aviv for the breakdown in the cease-fire and threatening Israel with "the gravest consequences" if it continues its "aggression." The authoritative statement, although strongly worded, did not commit Moscow to any specific action. The statement may have been aimed at balancing Moscow's joint sponsorship with Washington of yesterday's UN Security Council resolution, which did not lay blame on either side for the renewed hostilities. It also puts Israel on notice that Moscow would view seriously any further Israeli incursions into Egypt or Syria.

The US Embassy in Jidda reports that senior Saudi officials want to minimize the damage the present crisis may do to US-Saudi relations, and that they view the cease-fire as an important positive step. If it is not followed by an Israeli withdrawal from at least some Arab lands, however, or if renewed fighting results in major Arab reverses, Saudi Arabia may feel compelled to join its Arab neighbors in applying more pressure on the US.

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AFRICA-ISRAEL: Ethiopia's diplomatic break with Israel yesterday is a major setback for Israel in Africa.

Ethiopia is the ninth black African country to sever relations since the beginning of the war in the Middle East; however, it is probably the most politically important of all sub-Saharan countries for Tel Aviv. The Israelis placed high value on the support of Emperor Haile Selassie, a leader of stature in Africa, a founder of the Organization of African Unity, and a strong voice for moderation throughout the continent.

Addis Ababa traditionally maintained strong ties with Israel, which has been second only to the US as a source of technical and military assistance for Ethiopia. Haile Selassie apparently decided, however, that he was becoming increasingly isolated from both the Arab and African camps and found it impossible to resist pressures from both.

Israel's position in Africa has been deteriorating for some time; eight countries broke diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv between March 1972 and 4 October 1973. Although 15 sub-Saharan countries retain such ties as of now, Tel Aviv clearly is losing ground at the UN and in other international forums.

Haile Selassie's decision may influence other important African leaders still on the fence, particularly Nigeria's General Gowon who is the current head of the OAU. Gowon has been under intense pressure from within his own government and from Arab states to break with the Israelis. Continued fighting and Israeli diplomatic rigidity regarding a settlement could convince him to follow Ethiopia's example.

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CAMBODIA: Prime Minister In Tam's new cabinet solves some immediate political problems, but its long-range impact is not likely to be great.

A prolonged period of maneuvering ended on 21 October when the High Political Council approved a new 29-member cabinet, 17 of whom were carried over from the previous cabinet. The new cabinet has three vice - prime ministers, each of whom will have responsibility for coordinating the activities of a number of ministries. Two of the vice - prime ministers are supporters of President Lon Nol, while the third is loyal to Republican Party chief Sirik Matak. Lon Nol evidently persuaded In Tam to accept the new arrangement by giving the prime minister the portfolio he has long coveted--the Ministry of Interior.

Lon Nol formally informed the legislature yesterday that the High Political Council would continue as the country's ruling executive. At the same time, the President also authorized the legislature--which has been in a state of suspension for the past six months--to resume an active governmental role. Although the other three members of the council had voiced varying degrees of opposition to the legislature's recall, Lon Nol evidently won them over by allocating cabinet posts to their political backers.

The new cabinet broadens the government's support since for the first time in over a year it includes representatives from the opposition Republican Party. According to the US Embassy, governmental performance may show some improvement due to the appointment of the vice - prime ministers who are reasonably competent. On the other hand, the government is unlikely to be any more popular than its predecessor because most of the cabinet ministers are not particularly talented. More importantly, however, the "new" look in Phnom Penh does not seem destined to help bridge a growing political gap between the military establishment and the civilian leadership.

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In Peking, meanwhile, Prince Sihanouk has announced that all cabinet posts in his "Royal Government of National Union" (RGNU)--except the Foreign Ministry--will be turned over to the leaders of the "internal resistance." Most of the individuals who will lose their cabinet positions are members of Sihanouk's entourage.

Sihanouk indicated that this move is aimed at giving more ammunition to his backers at the United Nations, who are seeking to disprove that the RGNU is a government-in-exile. Sihanouk did not name the new cabinet members, but a cabinet that is chosen from among insurgent leaders in the field presumably would be less responsive to the Prince than the old one. Although Sihanouk did not so portray it, the impending shift could represent a political readjustment between the Sihanoukists and the Khmer Communists.

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WEST GERMANY - EASTERN EUROPE: Bonn is guardedly optimistic that relations with Eastern Europe will improve following talks last week in Warsaw and Moscow.

The communiqué wrapping up Foreign Minister Scheel's visit to Warsaw on 18-20 October contains the first official statement of Bonn's intention to provide low-cost credits to an East European state. The Poles also reiterated their promise to repatriate ethnic Germans over the next three to five years.

Scheel and the Poles did not reach final agreement on the size of the credit or the number of ethnic Germans that would be permitted to leave Poland. Near the beginning of the visit, the West German ambassador in Warsaw said that the Poles were willing to repatriate 50,000 Germans, while the West Germans wanted about 200,000. At the same time, Bonn was thinking of about DM one billion (\$416 million) in credits, but Warsaw was seeking "a significantly higher" sum. The announcement that Foreign Minister Olszowski will again visit Bonn soon indicates that neither side wants to let the issues stagnate.

Meanwhile, Bonn Foreign Office experts were in Moscow last week to pave the way for Scheel's visit there beginning on 31 October. The leader of the delegation told the US Embassy in Bonn that after some initial bluster, the Soviets expressed interest in some West German proposals to improve relations, indicated likely agreement on others, and promised to consider some that posed obvious difficulties.

On the crucial issue of West German representation of West Berlin legal entities, the Soviets showed "considerable interest" in a proposal that West Berlin and Soviet courts deal directly with each other, possibly with the new Soviet Consulate General in West Berlin acting as "the post office." Previously, there were signs that Bonn was thinking of resolving this issue, which has barred establishing relations with Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Hungary, and marred ties with the USSR and Poland, by negotiating separate legal assistance treaties. [REDACTED]

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WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES: The major obstacle facing the West European communist parties as they plan for their conference in January 1974 is the reluctance of some parties to follow the Italian Communist lead toward greater autonomy.

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The Italian Communists are the chief organizers of the conference, which they believe should adopt positions on European issues independent of Moscow. They argue that this will enhance the authority of European communism in the international movement. Accordingly, working groups will meet in Paris, Rome, Geneva, and West Germany during the coming weeks to thrash out detailed positions on European economic, social, and security issues. The agenda is far more ambitious than that of the five previous West European communist meetings, and the Italians hope that the positions taken at the conference will ultimately affect EC policy and European security relationships.

Some parties, however, are concerned that such a conference will damage their relations with Moscow. The West German and Austrian parties, which are heavily dependent on the Soviets for material support, are resisting the Italian arguments. In contrast, the British Communists have lined up solidly behind the Italians.

The French Communist Party helped the Italians organize the conference, but wants to stop short of actions that would appear to challenge Moscow's pre-eminence in the international movement. Nevertheless, the French are prepared for unity on certain key issues, including labor affairs and the desirability of exerting combined pressure on the EC. The French party's acceptance of the Italian views represents a major step forward in cooperation between the two parties, despite their divergence on broader issues.

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The Soviets have so far given the conference only passing notice, and Moscow probably shares the misgivings expressed by the French, Austrian, and West German parties. The Soviets may even have encouraged the French to participate, in hopes that they would act as a brake on the Italians.

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WORLD PEACE CONGRESS: The Middle East and Chilean problems are likely to dominate the World Peace Congress, which opens tomorrow in Moscow.

The one-week session will be the tenth such gathering sponsored by the Communist-front World Peace Council. The dates for the congress were fixed last summer, presumably with an eye toward generating support for Soviet objectives at the concurrent Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe at Geneva. Subsequent developments in Chile and the Middle East, however, probably will draw much of the delegates' attention. The Soviet press has announced that Brezhnev has been invited to address the first meeting, a good indication he will do so.

Some 3,000 "non-governmental" delegates from 98 international groups and 130 countries are expected to be on hand. The Soviets claim the Chinese were invited but have not responded. The head of the Soviet committee for the congress has told the US Embassy in Moscow that special efforts were made to attract prominent "non-socialist" organizations, and that representatives of some UN agencies and the World Council of Churches would be present.

The USSR is firmly in control of the congress, although at least one "non-socialist" attendee, Sean McBride of Amnesty International, already has raised the issue of Soviet treatment of dissidents at preliminary work sessions. The congress will not be open to the public, and no votes will be taken during the meetings. Documents already drawn up will be summarized orally and adopted by "consensus," as will the final communiqué. [REDACTED]

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China - North Vietnam: A trade agreement and a protocol on Chinese economic aid was signed late last week, completing negotiations for aid and trade next year. Such agreements have been concluded annually since 1970, and have been heavily weighted on the side of military aid. This presumably is no longer the case, although the announcement was not specific.

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Austria: Gains by the opposition People's Party in one of two provincial elections held last Sunday will give this center-right party as many seats in the upper house of parliament as the ruling Socialists. As a result, the People's Party will be able to delay enactment of legislation up to eight weeks. The election outcome was determined by the attractiveness of local personalities, rather than by such issues as Austria's recent capitulation to Arab terrorists. The Socialists improved their hold on Vienna, the locale of the second contest.

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**These items were prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.*

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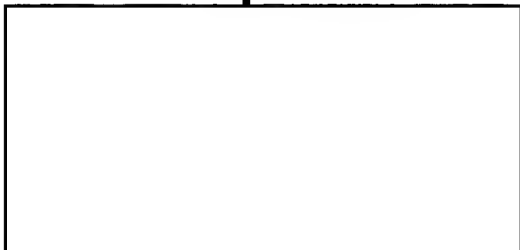
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